

## **Statement of Bulger Family Regarding FTCA Claim by James Bulger's Estate**

Today, the Bulger family filed a notice of claim under the Federal Tort Claim Act to obtain information about the circumstances surrounding the death of our family member, James Bulger. It has been nearly a year since his murder while in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. During that time the government has denied numerous requests for information, including requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. No official has advised us about the progress of internal investigations (if one even exists), and no charges have been brought against any responsible parties. As a result, this FTCA action is filed in an attempt to get answers from the government regarding his death and to hold to account the Bureau of Prisons and its umbrella agency, the Department of Justice.

We believe that James Bulger was deliberately placed in harm's way. There is simply no other explanation for the transfer of someone in his condition and inmate status to be placed in the general population of one of the country's most violent federal penitentiaries. It is consistent with the course of maltreatment that the Bureau of Prisons and The Department of Justice began as soon as James Bulger was incarcerated in 2011. While awaiting trial at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility from 2011 through 2013, he was held in the strictest solitary confinement. He was subjected to multiple daily strip searches, even as he was under guard and video surveillance around the clock. At USP Coleman, he was held in solitary confinement without explanation from February through September of 2018. He was led to believe that he would soon be transferred from Coleman to a prison that was better equipped to manage his failing health. Instead, he was transported to USP Hazelton where he was murdered within hours of arrival.

Since his death we have heard from numerous current and former prisoners and their families that such treatment is not unusual at USP Hazelton and throughout the Federal prison system. It is our sincere hope that this FTCA claim will illuminate the BOP culture of prisoner mistreatment and encourage the government to reform the US prison system.

A demand for significant monetary damages is a necessary component of a legal claim under the FTCA. We have no expectation of monetary gain. Any award to the estate will be subject to numerous claims, not the least of which are those lodged by Department of Justice. An FTCA claim is the only course of action available to us to get to the truth of this matter.

We will have no further comment at this time. Please refer questions to Hank Brennan and David Schoen, the attorneys for Mr. Bulger's estate.